

WHO IS AT THE DOOR?

Just as we rose from our knees after evening prayer, in the family circle of a friend, one night, there was a ring at the door.

"John," said my friend, to his son, a boy about seven or eight years old, "Answer the bell, and see what is wanted." But the usually obedient boy did not move, and was, evidently, very unwilling to do as he was told.

"John," said his father, "did you not understand me? Go to the door." "Father," said the boy, "I can't go." "What," said my friend, "You tell me you cannot." Then, seeing the distressed look on the boy's face, he said: "My son, what is the reason that you do not want to obey me?"

"O father," said the boy, "it's death at the door! Don't you know the hymn you sang before prayers tonight? 'For death stands ready at the door to take our lives away.' Don't make me go! I don't want him to take me!" Poor little fellow! It was all real to him. Of course, the father went to the door himself, and afterwards explained to the child, as best he could, what was meant.

After all it was a fearful idea to enter a young mind. Do let the children have bright and happy hymns to sing. Religion is joyous, glad and helpful. Not gloomy, sad and forbidding.

E. P. C.

LUTHER'S GERMAN NEW TESTAMENT.

By Rev. W. S. Bean, D. D.

A catechism prepared by Dr. R. A. Webb and published in the Earnest Worker, states that Luther translated the New Testament into German from the Latin. This is an error. Luther translated from the Greek of the second edi-

tion of the New Testament of Erasmus, which was published in 1519. Luther's New Testament appeared in September, 1522. The publication and diffusion of Erasmus' Greek Testament was one of the chief factors in preparing the way for the Reformation. Instead of the "agite poenitentiam"—"do penance" of the Latin Vulgate, the simple Greek word "metanoiete," "change your mind," shifted the emphasis from the outward "satisfaction" to the inward disposition. So in Ephesians 5:32, where the Vulgate translates, treating of marriage, "Sacramentum hoc magnum est," thus making matrimony one of the seven sacraments, the real meaning was given by the word "mystery." There are other passages also in which the Latin translated by a later ecclesiastical sense, rather than by the real significance of the words. If Luther had simply translated from the Latin, the German New Testament could never have been the weapon it was against the Roman Church.

Another erroneous opinion is that no German translation of the Bible was made before Luther's. There were about fourteen translations into high German before 1518, in folio; in low German, there were four complete editions, besides a good many translations of the psalms, the gospels, some epistles and the Church lessons. But these were large and costly books and never spread among the people. Luther had aroused the attention of the Christian world, paper was cheaper, and his German could be understood by the people because of its singular vigor, clearness and use of the court language of Franconia. These facts are taken from Herzog & Plitt, "Real Enzyklopaedie;" Reuss' "Geschichte des Neuen Testaments" and Lindsay's "Reformation in Germany."

the story, and how the fire came from heaven, and burned up even the stones of which the altar was made.

But God is not only a great and all-powerful God, but also loving and kind. Elijah was once so tired out with his hard day's work that he lay down under a tree and wished he might die. He fell asleep. Someone touched him and said "Arise and eat," and, behold, by his side was a fire and a cake ready baked and a bottle of water. The Lord knew what he needed and sent His angel to supply fire and food (1 Kings 19:4-7).

What a number of stories about fires there are in the Bible. I wonder how many you could find? There are two in St. John's gospel, chapters 18 and 21. Our Lord Jesus was being tried before the judges, and the servants and officers had lighted a fire near the door and were warming themselves when Peter joined them. They said to him, "You are one of the disciples of the prisoner," but he was ashamed and denied his Lord and Master.

Then there is the story of the disciples who had lost sight of their Master, and returned to their fishing, but had caught nothing all night and were very disheartened. Jesus, who had risen from the dead, called to them from the shore, and when they landed they found a fire lighted and a nice breakfast all ready. How glad they must have been to sit down by this fire, and listen to Jesus.—Christian Instructor.

A HALLOWE'EN REVENGE.

"Hateful old thing!"

"Hateful? I should say so; snapping us off like that when we offered to pay her for the window."

"I wish we'd broken every one of her windows since she's going to be so mean about it."

"So do I; 'twould have been good for the old woman if we had."

"Say, boys, let's get even with her. Tonight's Hallowe'en."

"Let's! What shall we do?"

"Oh, there are a lot of things. Come out right after supper and we'll decide."

"All right. I'll be there."

"So'll I." "So'll I."

"Good-bye." "Good-bye," and the four boys separated to wait impatiently for supper and darkness.

Both came at last, and 7 o'clock found the boys at the appointed place.

"Hello! all here? What shall we do first?"

"Let's carry off her gate and upset her porch steps."

"All right; anything else? What do you say, Jim?"

"Nothing, only that I can't help you."

"Oh, ho! Somebody turned goody, has he? Better run home to his mother."

"No, I haven't, but I can't help and that's all there is about it. Boys, do you know it's just four years today since George died?"

A long drawn whistle showed that the boys did remember their schoolmate's death.

"I'd forgotten, but I guess it is."

"That's why Mrs. Green's eyes were so red today. I don't blame her now. What made us forget?"

"Say, boys, can't we do something for her to let her see that we've not forgotten?"

"I have it. Let's fill a big basket with apples and stuff and leave it at her door. I know mother will help."

"That's a good idea, and say, let's put new hinges on her gate; it's been off a long time. And, boys, why can't we stack up the wood in the back yard for her, too?"

Our Boys and Girls

OUR FLAG.

(A Little Girl Speaks)

I stand up here to tell you
Something that seems new,
I know you will believe me,
For I wear Red, White and Blue.

The boys all feel so sure
That they control this land,
They talk about our country
In a way that's very grand.

But I have come to tell you
That all of us girls, too,
Can prove we love our Country,
And the Red, White and Blue.

—Selected.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERED BY FIRE.

A minister who delights to preach to boys and girls recently gave them a very instructive talk about fires. Among other things he asked them to see how often they could find fire mentioned in the Bible. He also spoke of what fire does, and what it stands for when it is spoken of in the Bible. He said:

I have no room to explain what fire is composed of, but your teachers will tell you. But you can all answer my next question, "What does fire do?" Fire burns, fire gives light, fire dries things or melts them. It burns up the rubbish and dross, it purifies, it warms. If you will get a Concordance and look under "fire," you will learn things the Bible has to say on this subject.

As we cannot see God, He has often clothed Himself with fire when He wished to show

Himself to anyone. When Moses was feeding Jethro's sheep, near Mount Horeb, he noticed a flame of fire in the middle of a bush, and, watching it, saw that the bush was not burned up. So he went nearer, and then God called to him out of the fire and told him he was to deliver the Israelites from their cruel masters in Egypt. (Ex. 3.) Then again, when God wanted to teach the people His laws, He came down on to Mount Sinai in fire (Ed. 19:18).

Sometimes God sent fire from heaven to show that He was pleased, and sometimes the fire came to show that He was displeased. In order to keep the people ever in remembrance of the dreadfulness of sin and to teach them that the punishment of sin is death (either they must die, or some one die instead of them), God instituted the sacrifices, which had to be burned with fire. When Moses had prepared the Tabernacle and altars for sacrifice, according to God's commandments, fire came down from heaven and burned up the offerings, to show that He accepted the worship (Lev. 9:24); and the same thing happened when Solomon had finished building the temple (2 Chron. 7:1-4). But when Aaron's sons thought they would offer fire of their own accord, God was displeased and His fire came down and destroyed them (Lev. 10:1-3). On another occasion, God's people had forgotten Him and worshipped idols, when Elijah appeared and challenged them to prove who was the true God. "The God that answereth by fire, let Him be God," said he (1 Kings 18). You all know